

Suggested Readings from February 27 Basement Academy

The Screwtape Letters – CS Lewis

The Contemplative Pastor – Eugene Peterson

The Way of the Heart – Henri Nouwen

In the Name of Jesus – Henri Nouwen

The Imitation of Christ – Thomas a Kempis

A Diary of Private Prayer – John Baillie

The Practice of the Presence of God – Brother Lawrence

The Spirit of the Disciplines – Dallas Willard

THE CONFESSION AND LITANY OF PENITENCE

Leader Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Silence

All Most holy and merciful Father:
We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.
We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Leader Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

Leader For all our unfaithfulness and disobedience; for the pride, vanity, and
hypocrisy of our lives;

Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

Leader For our self-pity and impatience, and our envy of those we think more
fortunate than ourselves;

Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

Leader For our unrighteous anger, bitterness and resentment; for all lies, gossip,
and slander against our neighbors.

Lord, have mercy upon us:

People For we have sinned against you.

Leader For our sexual impurity, our exploitation of other people, and our failure to give of ourselves in love;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

***People* For we have sinned against you.**

Leader For our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our intemperate pursuit of worldly goods and comforts;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

***People* For we have sinned against you.**

Leader For our dishonesty in daily life and work, our ingratitude for your gifts, and our failure to heed your call.
Lord, have mercy upon us:

***People* For we have sinned against you.**

Leader For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

***People* For we have sinned against you.**

Leader For our wastefulness and misuse of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

***People* For we have sinned against you.**

Leader For all false judgments, for prejudice and contempt of others, and for all uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

***People* For we have sinned against you.**

Leader For our negligence in prayer and worship; for our presumption and abuse of your means of grace;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

***People* For we have sinned against you.**

Leader For seeking the praise of others rather than the approval of God; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People **For we have sinned against you.**

Leader For our failure to commend the faith that is in us; Lord, have mercy upon us:

People **For we have sinned against you.**

All **Show favor to your people, O Lord, who turn to you in weeping, fasting, and prayer. For you are a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering, and abounding in steadfast love. You spare when we deserve punishment, and in your wrath you remember mercy. Spare your people, good Lord, spare us; in the multitude of your mercies, look upon us and forgive us; through the merits and mediation of your blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

Leader Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, desires not the death of sinners, but that they may turn from their wickedness and live. He has empowered and commanded his ministers to pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all who truly repent and sincerely believe his holy Gospel. For this reason, we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that our present deeds may please him, the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Please stand as you are able.

Leader The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with your spirit.**

Please greet those around you with a handshake, a smile, or another sign of God's peace.